

NORTH BREVARD COMMISSION ON PARKS & RECREATION

Minutes of the regular meeting of the North Brevard Commission on Parks & Recreation (NBCPR), an advisory board, held Thursday, April 8, 2010, in the Brevard Room of the Brevard County Government Complex-North.

Members Present

Dick Gossett, Chairman

Dr. Ron Bobay

Rev. Vernor Clay

Rev. Glenn Dames

Barry Gainer

Neta Harris

George Newman

Ron Swank

Members Absent

Ted Beck, Vice Chairman

City of Titusville Elected Officials/Staff Present

Walt Johnson, City Council Member, Liaison

Brevard County Staff Present

Kathie England, Administration Aide to Commissioner Fisher

Blaise Mancini, Land Acquisition Specialist

Jack Masson, Parks & Recreation Interim Director

Terry A. Lane, North Area Parks Operations Manager

Marsha Cantrell, Parks Support Services Manager

Jeff Davis, Jr., & Richard Tucci Recreation Superintendents

Michelle Summers, Area Finance Manager

John Dacus & Michael J. Rubacky, Parks Maintenance Superintendent

Joan Van Sickle, Construction Manager

Judy Inman, Administrative Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER, INVOCATION, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE & ROLL CALL

Chairman Dick Gossett called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Rev. Vernor Clay to give the invocation that was followed by the pledge allegiance.

Motion by Barry Gainer, seconded by Ron Swank, to excuse the absence of Ted Beck who was out of town.

AYE: Bobay, Clay, Dames, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Newman, Swank

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion by Rev. Glenn Dames, seconded by Barry Gainer, to accept the minutes of March 11, 2010, with any necessary corrections if there be any.

AYE: Bobay, Clay, Dames, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Newman, Swank

NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

III. PUBLIC COMMENT (items not appearing elsewhere on the agenda)

Joan Wheeler of Titusville spoke of discussions at the City Council about the last NBCPR meeting regarding a skate park vs. splash park and she wondered which would be easier to tear down to put in a dry dock. She suggested if one can't be built, don't build the others. She noted only boy skaters were present and asked if girls skate, noting things seem to be male oriented. She spoke for putting both there, not leaving out anyone and not leaving space to build a dry dock stack. She stated she will be watching until it is completely finished.

Chairman Gossett related, because people were present to speak about splash vs. skate park, that Commissioner

Fisher said he will not support anything that increases operation and maintenance costs due to the budget cutbacks. Chairman Gossett noted the \$25,000 annual cost to operate a splash park. Therefore, the project will proceed as it was originally structured with the skate park before the splash park.

Rev. Dames stated he thinks that if the board is creative, money can become available. He also stated that he thinks a skateboard park is not as far reaching as a splash park and it grieves him, disappoints him, greatly that the board will not be far reaching in efforts to serve all the kids in Brevard County. Rev. Dames stated he hopes the Commissioner is ready to buy skateboards for kids in his neighborhood so they can attend the park. He agreed with the last speaker asking about what there is for young ladies to do and stated it seems to him if the splash park can't be done, the skate park shouldn't be done either. He stated he looks forward to and is prepared to meet everyone who wants to do that at a County Commission meeting.

Chairman Gossett noted any changes will have to go the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and suggested Rev. Dames contact the County Commissioners and try to convince them.

George Newman asked the Commissioner's direction. Chairman Gossett responded it was to proceed with the project the way it was structured and approved by the BoCC and City Council. Terry Lane related the actual approval and priority for Marina Park was #1 boat ramps and associated infrastructure, #2 rest room, #3 additional infrastructure, #3b picnic structures, playground, additional gazebos, #4 skate park, #5 splash park, #6 dog park, #7 pavilion with kitchen and rest room, and last

was Bocce ball. The approval originally was through #5 splash park and now the splash park, dog park, and other elements are still identified in the master plan. Rev. Dames inquired how many priorities are satisfied thus far. Mr. Lane explained that even #1 isn't completely finished because the boat ramps don't connect to the road as yet. Joan Van Sickle reported advertisements for other park elements went out today; the skate park is being completed by maintenance. Terry Lane reviewed that in the original referendum where Marina Park was to be the home for the Titusville Little League, but they disbanded several years ago. Marina Park was originally to be \$1.48 million, but over \$3 million was prioritized. Chairman Gossett asked that new members of the advisory board be provided copies of priorities and cost estimates.

Rev. Clay indicated in all fairness, both parks are needed and spoke of task to serve and to hear and address the needs of citizens of North Brevard County. He noted some that don't have skateboards could use the splash park and spoke for the need to attract children for activities to keep kids off the street, using creativity and to safeguard our children.

Ron Swank questioned if the advisory board makes a recommendation that isn't accepted by the County Commission, does the advisory board need to make a decision. Mr. Lane stated the minutes will reflect what was said tonight and it wouldn't be the first time advice wasn't accepted.

Chairman Gossett noted different people have different needs and after all considerations, the committee had to prioritize under money constraints.

Brad Russell, associate pastor at Park Avenue Baptist Church, who runs the skateboard ministry for the church, spoke for the need to support skateboard activities as no facility is provided for them in North Brevard and skateboarding is banned everywhere else. He noted basketballs, softballs, and tennis racquets were not provided at other parks. He commented the splash park is basically for 10 years and under, that there are a lot of leagues for youth, but the skateboarders are given no opportunities in the sport, and skateboarding is not closed to girls.

Rev. Dames responded tennis balls and racquets are provided, and basketballs are available at PAL gym. Pop Warner cheerleading is available for girls. He stated he thinks the skateboard park and splash park are equally needed and have the same weight in terms or priority. He stated he thinks something is needed to serve the

whole community and not have a particular park excluded.

Ron Swank asked if the Commissioner specifically discussed the splash park and if he had an issue.

Ron Swank made a motion to take the skate park off hold which Neta Harris seconded. Rev. Dames offered an amendment not to address that particular item tonight. The amendment was not accepted by Mr. Swank. Terry Lane read the motion from the March 11, 2010, NBCPR meeting and reported Commissioner Fisher said thank you for the recommendation but he was not going to change direction of Marina Park.

Neta Harris rescinded her second and the motion died for lack of a second.

Dwight Seigler distributed a copy of a letter from Facebook that contained hate speech allegedly from an employee.

Walt Johnson indicated it was not appropriate. Mr. Seigler asked what would be done about the situation. Chairman Gossett indicated he didn't think this was the forum as the advisory board does not get into disciplinary action of employees. Mr. Seigler stated he wanted to let the board know what type of people we are dealing with in Parks and Recreation. He wanted the advisory board to know of it and he will take it to the County manager and media.

Motion by Rev. Glenn Dames, seconded by Rev. Vernor Clay, this board needs to go on record that we disdain this kind of action in a major way.
AYE: Bobay, Clay, Dames, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Newman, Swank
NAY: None **Carried 8-0**

Neta Harris asked where this came from and whose name was on it. Terry Lane reported it was brought to his attention the day before and he contacted the County Attorney's office and sent them copies. He stated staff is dealing with the matter in an appropriate manner based on County policies and procedures. Dwight Seigler stated this is the only way he could get this into the minutes so it becomes public record.

Walt Johnson stated everyone in here is disgusted with what is in the letter and this is not the forum.

Terry Lane reported the County Attorney's office couldn't find the letter on Facebook and noted people

should not be judged until the investigation is complete. He said if it is true, it is unacceptable.

Lorene Shafer cautioned if you put this in the minutes without legal advice, you might not be happy with the outcome.

Rev. Dames stated we are concentrating on the language, not the person.

Walt Johnson cautioned it will go in this form and unintended consequence on this could be bad. Rev. Dames respectfully disagreed. Rev. Clay indicated the essence of this is that we do not concur or agree to any of this language or maltreatment of persons in our county or anywhere.

Nancy Stephenson had completed a speaker card but declined to speak.

Bea Polk asked if she understood someone saying one County Commissioner can change something, noting three votes are required. Terry Lane responded this is about changing the splash park and skate park, but it hasn't changed from the original priority. Ms. Polk stated the public has no idea what is said and she gets upset when you change things. Chairman Gossett stated it is his understanding that the District 1 Commissioner is responsible for District 1 and he can decide if he wants to take advice from this advisory board to the BoCC. Rev. Dames agreed the County Commissioner can't change things but he can decide what he takes to the County Commissioners.

Dr. Bobay stated that throughout this whole process, the NBCPR is advisory and noted the priorities were authorized by the County Commissioners. Even if Commissioner Fisher doesn't take it to the BoCC, an individual from the public can do so. Terry Lane concurred and added City Council also as owner. Dr. Bobay stated concern over the adversarial discussion. He thinks the public doesn't understand the authority of the different bodies, but it is a credit to our democracy that everybody has an opportunity to express themselves in the process. However, he stated he feels like he is being indicted that he hasn't done something, or done something inappropriately. He pointed out that there is another authority if there is dissatisfaction with the advisory group's recommendation.

IV. REPORTS

A. Miscellaneous Reports & Updates—FYI

Terry Lane mentioned the semi-annual report to the City, a presentation made by the County Manager to

cities and School Board, and reported staff was tasked with coming up with 20% budget reductions and possibly more based on scenarios.

B. Chairman's Report on Meetings

Chairman Gossett noted this is a large commission and is difficult to control as there are no lights for speakers. He noted Article 3 in the handbook states *Robert's Rules of Order* shall apply. He stated, if you want to speak, you are to address the presiding officer by official title and once you have recognition, you may speak without interruption. He asked the board members to please follow *Robert's rules of Order* and be brief in their comments.

Rev. Dames stated it is everybody's intention to adhere to *Robert's Rules of Order*, but sometimes democracy and passion gets mixed in. He stated he thinks the board members are all clear on their duties and responsibilities and it wasn't to filibuster either.

C. Advisory Board Members & Updating Park/Committee Assignments

Chairman Gossett expressed the pier will be a great asset, particularly after the bridge is complete.

Rev. Clay asked to be excused for a church meeting. Rev. Dames requested the same for Bible study and stated "Don't we have a fine chair."

D. City of Titusville—Walt Johnson reported City Council discussed actions taken by this board about the splash park and the skateboard park. There was no conclusion by Council, but they requested that the current priorities and cost estimates for Marina Park to be provided to the City manager. He stated that to his knowledge, at least during the period he has been on Council, there has never been a point of discussion about a dry dock or anything mentioned of that nature and asked former Mayor Ron Swank if such discussion had occurred. Mr. Swank responded at one point, many years ago, there was some such discussion.

E. North Area Parks Operations Staff

Terry Lane reported Cheryl Page, former Assistant Parks and Recreation Director and North Area Parks Operations Manager, passed away yesterday and there is a memorial gathering at Sand Point Park on Saturday at 2 p.m.

V. REFERENDUM & OTHER PROJECTS—

A. Construction Report—Joan Van Sickle reported on changes since the report was written:

- Cuyler Park—Documents were returned from Land Development, so staff is preparing the bid documents and having the Building Department review them.
- Isaac Campbell, Sr. Park—Staff will be giving the contractor notice to proceed before next month.
- Marina Park—Bid was advertized today and is to be opened on May 10.
- North Brevard Senior Center needs additional comments for St. Johns.
- Titusville Veterans' Memorial Fishing Pier is almost complete with minor changes in electrical to be completed in May. Chairman Gossett asked about the concessionaire cutting the footing when installing water lines. Mr. Lane reported Jason Reichman is putting a lot of money into it and pulled a permit to run power, water and sewer lines to the tiki area, but ran into an issue that is being taken care of. The hope is to open the concession close to when the pier is completed. Chairman Gossett stated it would be nice to dedicate the pier on Memorial Day.

B. North Area Referendum Projects Report—Terry Lane noted the updated report in the packet.

Dwight Seigler reported the different communities agreed to the Marr property as a good location, and stated concern that the Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee is comprised of all Scottsmoor people and it isn't fair that they are making a decision for that one particular group which is not fair to the North Brevard community that voted for the Referendum. He stated the property might be a little lower, but suggested when looking at the infrastructure and cost to provide water, sewer and maybe a crossover at US 1, the cost goes back up and suggested considering that in making a decision.

Chairman Gossett asked what happens to interest money. Mr. Lane indicated it is identified in the lower box and goes back into other revenues, which goes back into the projects overall for capital.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Project Update—Mr. Lane reported the committee unanimously recommended, 4-0, First Equity Development Group property #11 on the spreadsheet, consisting of 14.56 acres for \$218,400. Discussion ensued about the cost of appraisal, who pays for the appraisal, and the County continually paying for appraisals and no property has been purchased. Neta Harris expressed dismay that at the last NBCPR meeting

it was voted to reconsider the Marr property when there were other recommendations from the committee.

Motion by Neta Harris, seconded by Barry Gainer, that if the property owner wants to sell to the County, that they come ready to do so with a recent appraisal performed by a County-approved appraiser, and an environmental report provided by a County-approved environmental scientist, and that the report indicates that any wetlands area has been flagged, and willingness to negotiate.

AYE: Gainer, Harris, Swank

NAY: Bobay, Gossett, Newman **Failed 3-3**

After the motion and before the vote, Marieanne Syverson spoke for not requiring the property owner to pay for an appraisal when owners of previously considered properties were not required to do so.

Barry Gainer reviewed the motion from last NBCPR meeting, gave appreciation for work of the committee, and expressed his feeling that Parrish Park-Scottsmoor, in addition to being too small, was too far for Mims residents to ride their bikes. He continued saying, the Turnbull property was too small and therefore he wanted more of a choice, and stated the intent of the motion was to bring forth the Marr property for the committee to look at and to accept or reject.

Dwight Seigler suggested considering a cost study for what it would cost to provide water and sewer to the facility, noting if it cost \$400,000, it would get the price back up and both are needed if it is a hurricane shelter.

Motion by Barry Gainer, seconded by Dr. Ron Bobay, to accept the recommendation of the Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee for First Equity Development Group (Property #11 on spreadsheet) and move forward.

AYE: Bobay, Gainer, Gossett, Harris, Newman, Swank

NAY: None **Carried 6-0**

Barry Gainer thanked staff for work at Chain of Lakes, noting people going there had nothing but high praise for County staff. Mr. Lane reported hundreds of young ladies played girls' fast-pitch softball there day and night for seven weeks.

Ron Swank officially thanked the Mims-Scottsmoor Community Center Referendum Committee for their work.

VII. NEW BUSINESS—None.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m. at the motion by
Ron Swank.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Gossett, Chairman

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